

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A flow rate control valve comprising a cylindrical housing disposed intermediate a gas passage through which an exhaust gas flows, a first cylindrical sleeve fitted into an inner periphery of the housing from one axial end thereof, a second cylindrical sleeve fitted into the inner periphery of the housing from the other axial end, and a valve body in the form of a disc and rotatably disposed within the both sleeves so as to open or close the gas passage;

in which the both sleeves are disposed in a manner such that their axes are offset from each other radially and inner end faces of the both sleeves are disposed in abutment against each other, part of the inner end faces of the both sleeves forming a stepped end face inside the both sleeves, a circumferentially extending edge of the stepped end face defining a first seat, the valve body having an outer peripheral surface which is shaped to be a beveled surface or arcuate in section to define a second seat, the second seat of the valve body being disposed in linear contact with the first seat to close the gas passage.

2. (Original) A flow rate control valve according to Claim 1 in which the valve body has a center of rotation about which it rotates, the center of rotation being located on a common plane with the mutually abutting inner end faces of the both sleeves.

3. (Currently Amended) A flow rate control valve according to Claim 1—or—2 in which each of the inner end faces

of both sleeves is a beveled surface which is disposed at a given angle with respect to the axis of either sleeve.

4. (Currently Amended) A flow rate control valve according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 in which the first seat is formed as a beveled surface or arcuate in section.